



Utah Historic Flash Flood Database



I. Load the map

- Download the database from:
http://www.wrh.noaa.gov/slc/projects/ff_events/SLC_FF_06_07.kmz
- This will download all reported flash flood events from the years 2006 and 2007.
Individual files for each year can be downloaded as well:
2006: http://www.wrh.noaa.gov/slc/projects/ff_events/SLC_FF_2006.kmz
2007: http://www.wrh.noaa.gov/slc/projects/ff_events/SLC_FF_2007.kmz

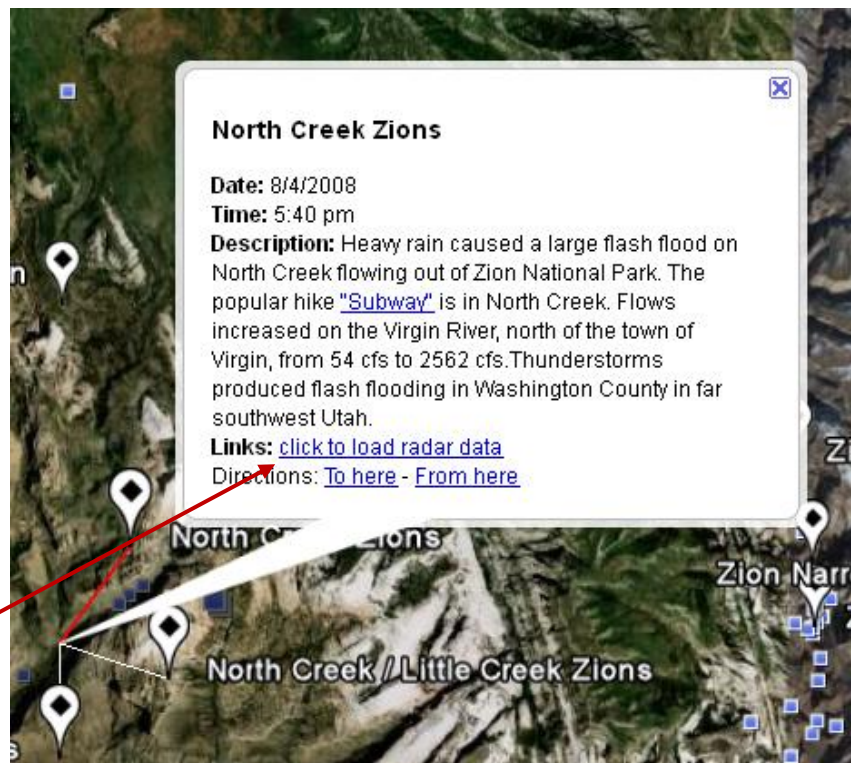
When the file opens it will display all of the reported flash flood events in Utah from 2006-2007

II. Look at a specific event in more detail

- All of the flash flood events have radar, most have additional notations showing locations described in the event description (from the local storm reports), and some have photos, news articles, event hydrographs, and even videos.
- To look at a specific event, the easiest way is to zoom into the area of interest and click on the placemark (white bubble) of the event. This will allow you to load radar data, and photos or videos, if available.
- To view additional data on the event (e.g., radar data, highlights of the specific drainage or wash impacted etc) click on the “load radar data” link at the bottom of the bubble.

Click on the “[click to load radar data](#)” link to open up a new file with info for the event of interest.

****NOTE**** Once you click on the link, it will take about a minute for the new file to open



- d. Each event is saved as a separate file. To view the radar data for the event of interest, the file for that event must be downloaded. To download each event file, click on the “click to load radar data” link. When you click on the “click to load radar data” link, a window will open with the option to download or save the new file. Either option will download the file. ****NOTE**** Once you click on the link, it will take about a minute for the new file to open
- e. When the new file has downloaded, it will appear in the “Temporary Places” folder at the bottom of the left-hand column in Google Earth:

“Temporary Places” folder, at the bottom of the left-hand column.

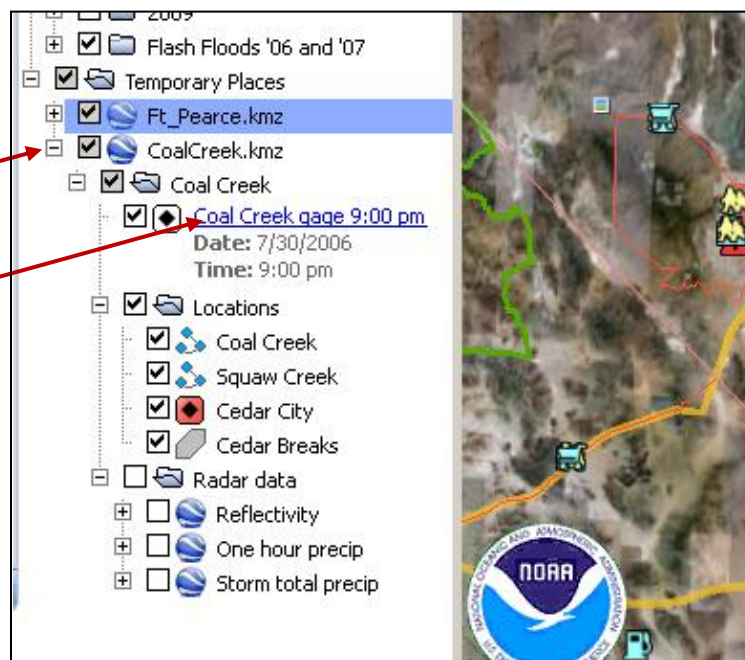
Click the “+” sign to expand the event and see more detail, including radar data.



Some events will need to be expanded to view radar data and additional detail. To expand the file, click the “+” sign to the left of the event name. To zoom in closer to the event on the map, double click the blue event name:

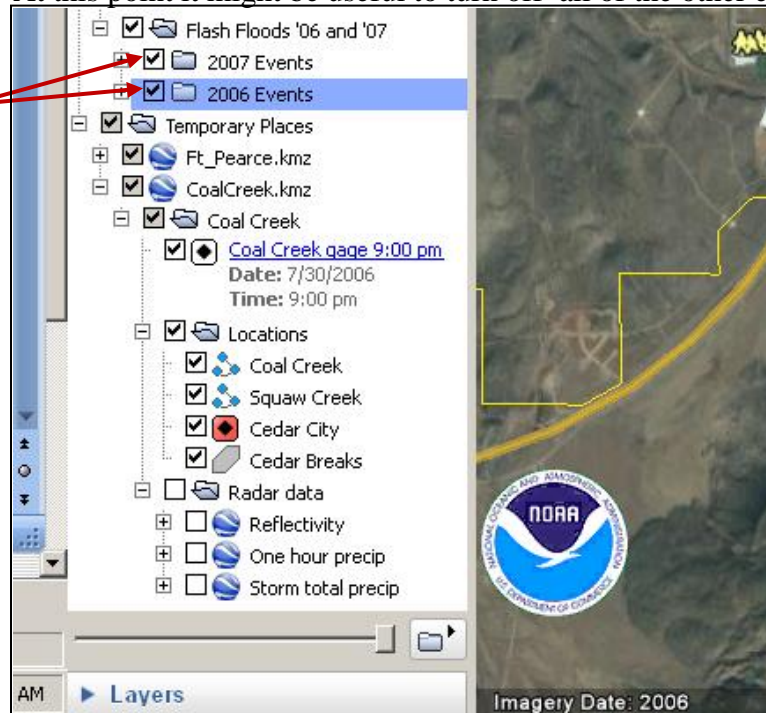
Expanded event

Double click on the blue event name to zoom the map into the event.



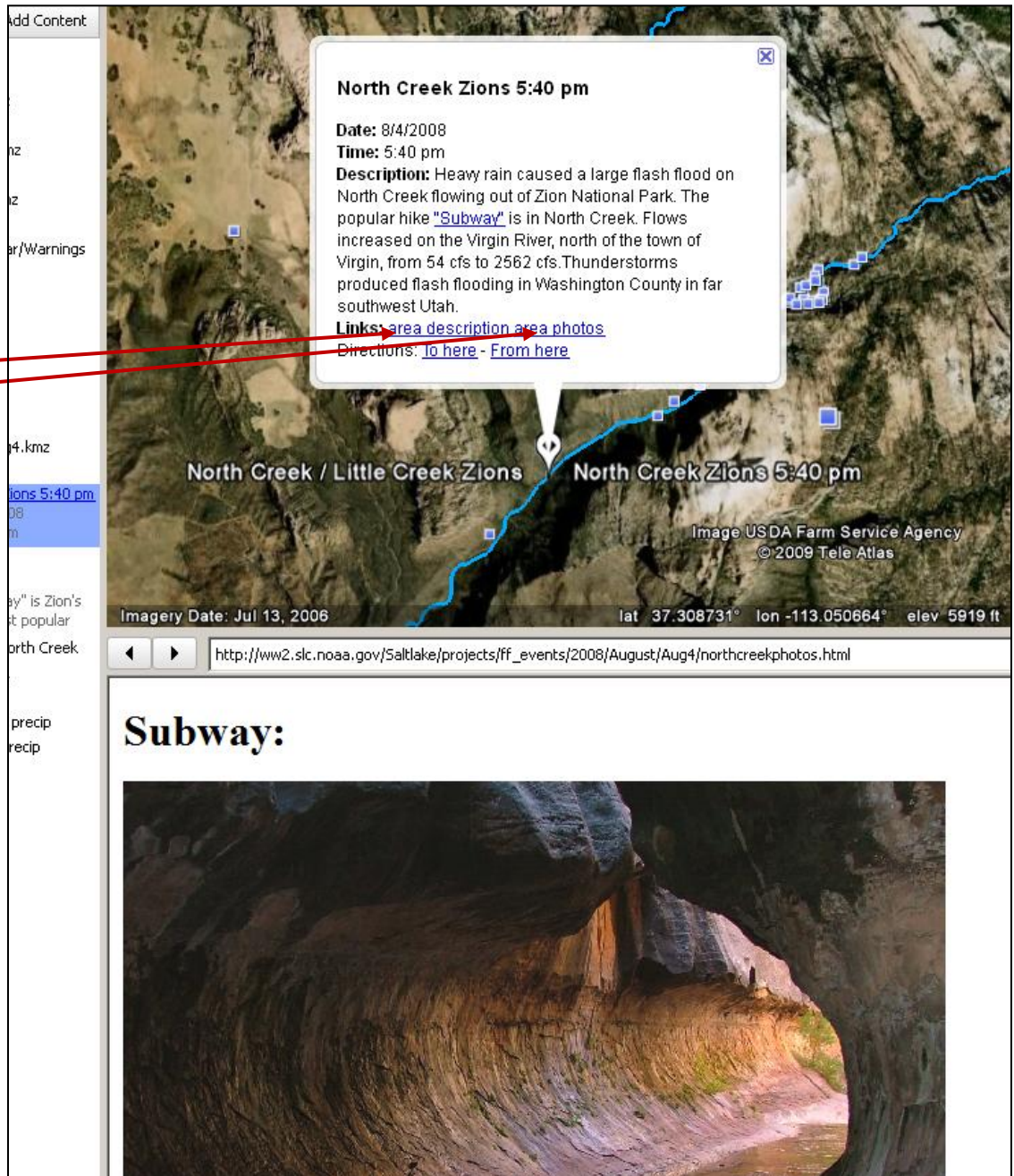
g. At this point it might be useful to turn off all of the other events:

Click off the two checkmarks to turn off all of the other events



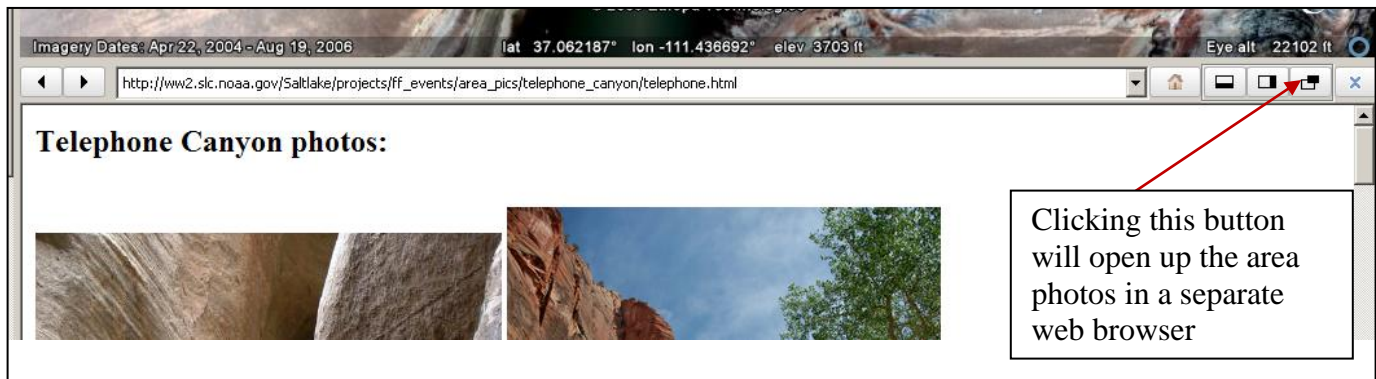
(The following image wouldn't fit in this space.
Scroll to the next page for further instructions.)

- h. The placemark bubble contains information about the event, including the date, time, and LSR. Any additional information about the event or area is included as a link. To view this information, click on the link and a new window should open in the bottom of the Google Earth display. For example, clicking on the “area photos” link in the example shown above would pull up photos of the area, as seen in the image below:

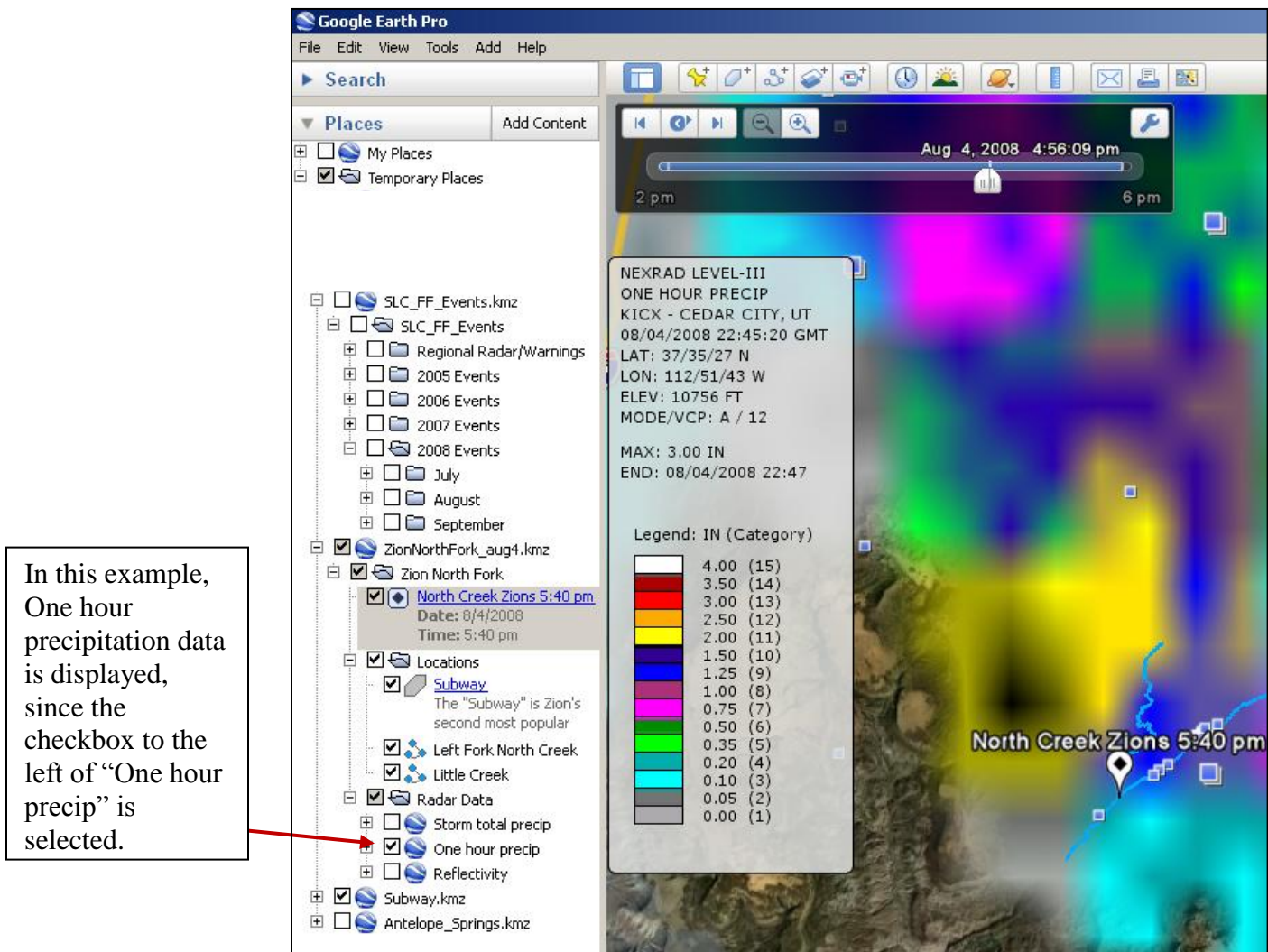


Each link in the placemark bubble will open in a frame below the main google earth display. In this example, the “[area photos](#)” link has been selected, and pictures of the subway are displayed in the second frame.

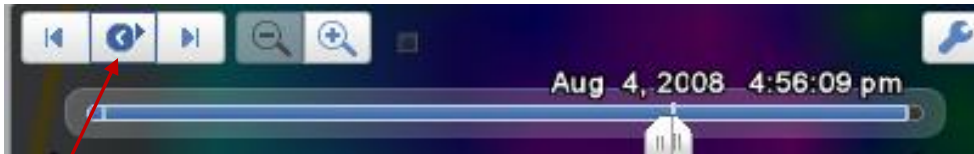
- i. If you want to view photos in a separate webpage, click the “pop out” button in the top right corner of the photo page, as seen below:



- j. To view event radar data, expand the “Radar Data” folder by clicking on the “+” symbol to the left of the folder
- k. Select the type of radar information that is of interest by clicking in the box to the left of Reflectivity, one hour precipitation, or storm total precipitation. This will load the radar loop for the element that you selected. **NOTE: Make sure all radar data from all other dates is turned off. Otherwise it will be difficult to find the desired time in the loop.**



- l. To see the animation toolbar, after you have loaded the radar data of interest, hover your mouse over the upper left-hand corner of the main Google Earth display. In the time settings, accessed by clicking on the tool-shaped picture on the upper left of the time bar, make sure the time is set to “time zone on my computer.” Otherwise, the dates and times of the events won’t match up with the radar time loops.

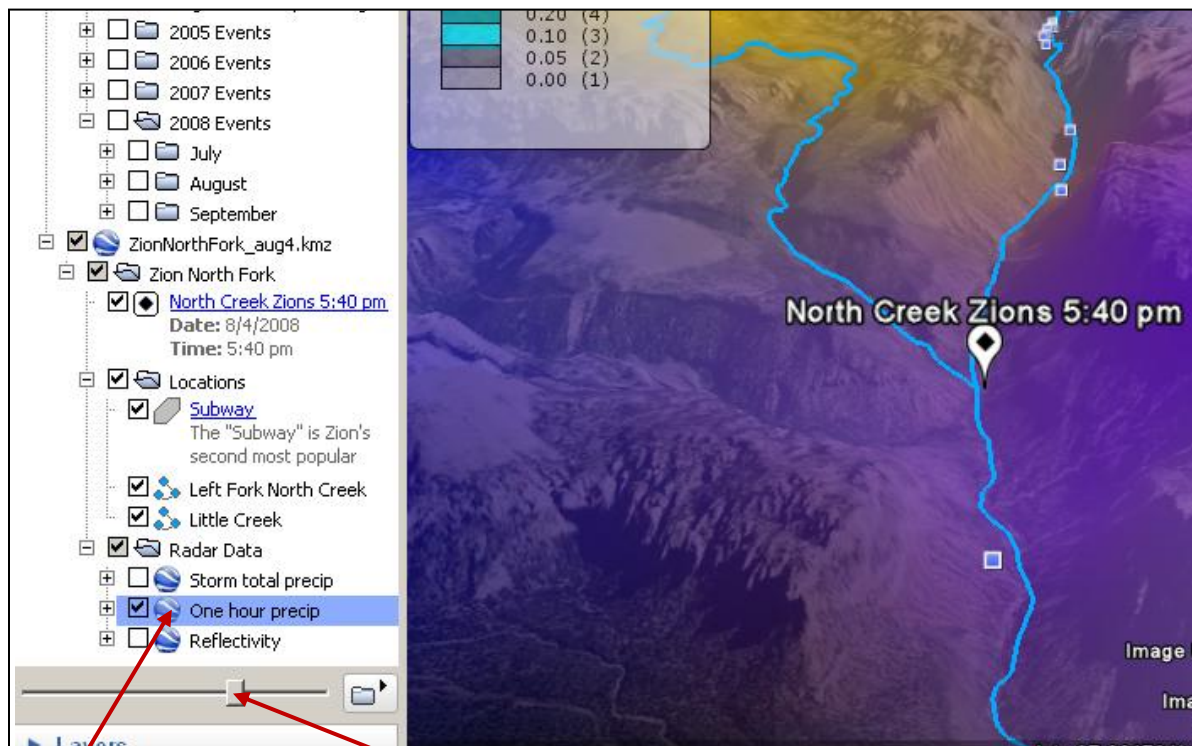


Click this button to loop the radar data once

Click on the right half of the slider bar and drag right and left to go forwards and backwards in time

Click on this to change time settings. A menu will pop up that will allow you to control the looping speed, time zone, and to continuously loop the animation.

- m. The opacity of the radar data can be controlled in order to see the terrain underneath. To do this, select the radar data that is being viewed. A slider bar will pop up at the bottom of the “Places” window, and the slider bar can be moved to the left and right to control the opacity:



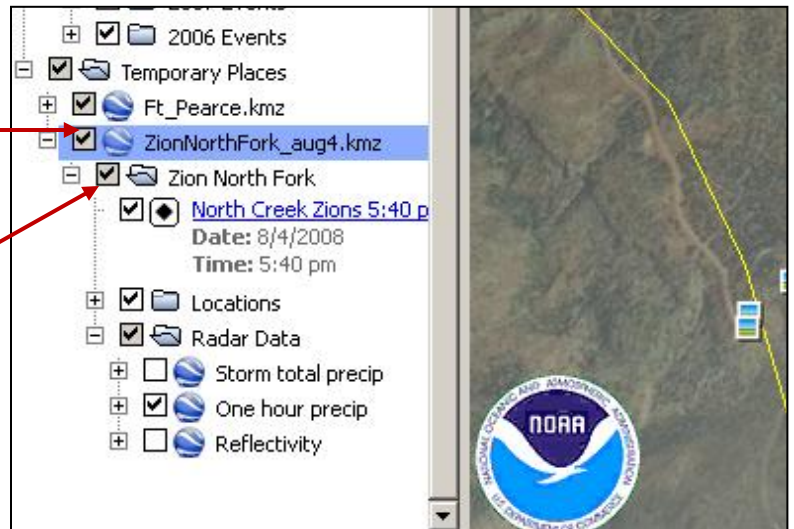
Make sure the element you’re controlling is highlighted, or else the opacity control won’t work

Slider bar can be moved to the left or right to control opacity

- n. When you are done examining the event, be sure to turn off all of the loaded data (by unchecking the box next to name of the event that you loaded) before loading another event.

When finished viewing individual event data, uncheck the box next to the name of the event.

To remove the event, highlight the top folder for the event (ZionNorthFork_aug44.kmz in this case) and hit the delete key on your keyboard.



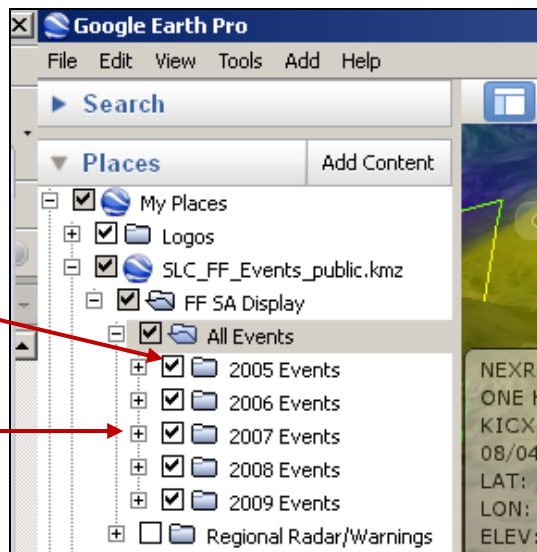
- o. To completely unload the event, select the top folder of the event (usually nameofevent.kmz) and hit the “delete” key. Alternatively, you can highlight the event, right click, and then select “delete.” A window will pop up asking if you really want to delete the file. Click “ok” if you are sure.

III. Filter the events that you want to see

- a. If you want to turn off some of the events, expand the file by clicking the “+” sign to the left of “SLC_FF_Events” in the Places section on the left-hand side of the Google Earth display.
- b. The events are broken down into months of years. The map will default to show all events of all years. To see fewer placemarks, deselect the folders that aren’t of interest by clicking on the box to the left of the folder. To select by month, expand the year folder. To select an individual event, expand the month folder for that event:

To see fewer placemarks, deselect the folders that aren’t of interest by clicking on the box to the left of the folder

To select by month, expand the year folder by clicking on the “+” symbol.



IV. Still have questions? Please feel free to send an email to w-slc.webmaster@noaa.gov